Virtual device

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.
Revision as of 16:04, 20 February 2004; view current revision
← Older revision | Newer revision →

A **virtual device** in Unix is a file such as /dev/null or /dev/urandom, that is treated as a device, as far as user level software is concerned, but is generated by the kernel without reference to hardware.

For instance when /dev/null is written to, the kernel tells the program it wrote everything to it (without actually writing it anywhere), and when read from, the reading program is told that it has reached the end of the file. It is a device file (it can be made with mknod for instance), but does not reference any hardware.

Retrieved from "http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual_device"

- This version of the article has been revised.
  Besides normal editing, the reason for revision may have been that this version contains factual inaccuracies, vandalism, or material not compatible with the GFDL.
- Privacy policy
- About Wikipedia
- Disclaimers